WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of ensuring that an IMS database and a description for said IMS database, are synchronized, wherein said description is stored in a data management block, the method comprising:

    storing a copy of said description, used to load said database, within said database, wherein said copy is maintained in said database;

    before accessing said database, comparing said copy of the said description with said description stored in said data management block; and

    determining whether said copy of said description and said description stored in said data management block are synchronized.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said comparing step occurs before each access to said database.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said copy of the database description is stored within said database as one or more database records.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein said one or more database records are stored in said database in a unique location which is dependent on said database's organization.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of taking responsive action if said copy of the description and said description stored in said data management block are not synchronized.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein said responsive action includes alerting a user of a problem with said description.

7.   The method of claim 5, wherein said responsive action includes suspending further activity with regard to said database.

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1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein said further activity is suspended until

2   said descriptions become synchronized.

1   9.   The method of claim 5, wherein said comparing step occurs before

2   each access to said database.

1   10.   The method of claim 5, wherein said copy of the database description

2   is stored within said database as one or more database records.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein said one or more database records

2   are stored in said database in a unique location which is dependent on said database's

3   organization.

1   12.   The method of claim 9, wherein said responsive action includes

2   alerting a user of a problem with said description.

1   13.   The method of claim 9, wherein said responsive action includes

2   suspending further activity with regard to said database.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, wherein said further activity is suspended

2   until said descriptions become synchronized.

1   15.   The method of claim 10, wherein said responsive action includes

2   alerting a user of a problem with said description.

1   16.   The method of claim 10, wherein said responsive action includes

2   ' suspending further activity with regard to said database.

1   17.   The method of claim 16, wherein said further activity is suspended

2   until said descriptions become synchronized.

1   18.   A program storage media readable by a machine and containing

2   instructions for performing the method contained in claim 1.